

BREAD & PUPPET



THE CITY-OF.

BROTHERLY-LOVE  
PASSION PLAY



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THE CITY-OF-BROTHERLY-  
LOVE PASSIONPLAY

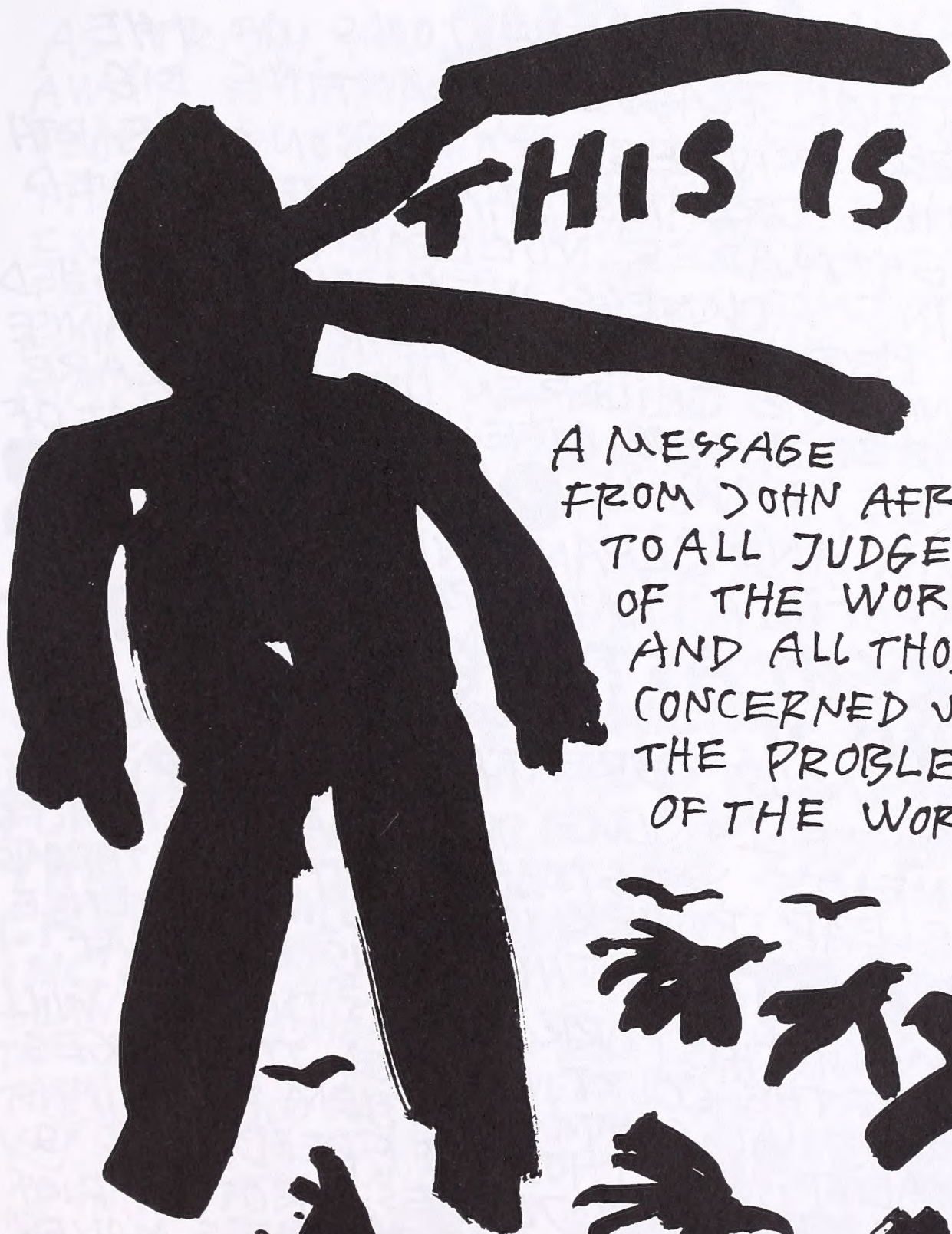
VERSE BY  
BURT PORTER

1998



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A MESSAGE  
FROM JOHN AFRICA  
TO ALL JUDGES  
OF THE WORLD  
AND ALL THOSE  
CONCERNED WITH  
THE PROBLEMS  
OF THE WORLD



THE COURTS ARE THE TOOLS OF THE  
INDUSTRIAL PLAGUE GRANTING BIG  
BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TO POISON OUR EARTH  
SCIENTIFIC DREAMS THAT HAVE TURNED  
TO NIGHTMARES, NUCLEAR PLANTS  
BELCHING SICKNESS, WEAK LUNGS, PUSHED  
ON THE PEOPLE DESPITE THEIR RESISTANCE  
CRIPPLING OUR CHILDREN UNTIL THEY ARE  
DEAD, REFORMING LIFE'S WAY TO THAT OF  
A SCIENCE, TAKING **OUR WATER**  
FAMILIAR AND CLEAN AND TURNING IT  
INTO A POTION THAT'S POISON, **AIR THAT**  
**WAS RIGHT AS THE GOD THAT**  
**SUSTAINS IT** IS NOW STRANGULATION TO  
ALL THAT MUST BREATHE IT **DESPITE**  
WHAT YOU TELL FOLKS WITH LAWS AND  
AMENDMENTS YOU STUFF DOWN FOLKS' THROATS  
FOR NUCLEAR POWER IS STILL IN EXISTENCE  
AND **WASTE** IS THE MONSTER THAT  
COMES WITH THIS HORROR AND DISEASE WILL  
BE LAID AT THE COURT, LAID ON THE JUDGES  
AND THOSE THAT COMMAND THEM, POLITICIANS  
INDUSTRIALISTS, ALL THOSE OF GREED, THIS IS  
THE FILTH THAT YOU JUDGES PROTECT RICH  
FOLKS AND INDUSTRY. BIG BUSINESS, MONEY  
POOR FOLKS IS JUST LIKE DEAD WOOD TO THE COURT  
THEY'RE CUT UP AND BURNT UP AND SET OUT

AS TRASH YOU **JUDGES** AIN'T GET  
AWAY WITH NONE OF THIS STUFF, YOU HURT  
PEOPLE IN THE NAME OF INDUSTRY EVER SINCE  
THAT EXISTENCE OF INDUSTRY, MONOPOLY  
EXPLOITATION, YOU HAVE JAILED POOR FOLKS  
DESPITE INNOCENCE, FREED RICH FOLKS DESPITE  
GUILT, COLLECTED YOUR SALARY FROM BOTH AND  
MADE POOR FOLKS PAY THE BULK OF IT, THIS  
SYSTEM IS ROTTEN FROM END TO END, IT HAS  
BEEN **SET UP BY THE RICH TO BENEFIT**  
**THE RICH** GIVE THEM MUCH MORE THAN THE  
POOR FOLKS THEY HIRE, ACCESSING THE RICH  
AND INSULTING, ENSLAVING EXECUTING THE  
POOR, FOR WHEN YOU ARE OWNED BY A SUBJECT  
YOU ARE A SLAVE OF THAT SUBJECT, **YOU CAN'T**  
**EAT IN THE SYSTEM UNLESS YOU WORK**  
**FOR THE SYSTEM, YOU CAN'T WORK IN**  
**THE SYSTEM UNLESS YOU'VE GOT**  
**CREDENTIALS FROM THE SYSTEM**  
**INCLUDING THE JUDGES**, YOU JUDGES ARE  
SLAVES OF THE ESTABLISHED THIEVES AND SINCE  
THE ESTABLISHED THIEVES CONTROL THE MONEY  
THEY MADE EVERYBODY ELSE SLAVES TO THEM, ALONG  
WITH YOU JUDGES LAWYERS POLITICIANS. THIS IS THEIR  
SYSTEM. IT IS BUILT ON MONEY. FOLKS CAN'T GET NOTHING  
IN THIS SYSTEM WITHOUT MONEY **AND CAN'T**  
**GET MONEY WITHOUT**  
**GOING THROUGH THOSE**  
③ THAT CONTROL IT

JOHN AFRICA  
TAUGHT HIS  
PEOPLE HOW  
TO LIVE IN A SIMPLE  
NATURAL WAY  
HIS PEOPLE FORMED  
A GROUP CALLED MOVE  
IT IS THEIR STORY  
WE TELL TODAY

TODAY EIGHT PEOPLE ARE STILL IN JAIL  
FOR WHAT WAS DONE 20 YEARS AGO  
IN PHILADELPHIA. WE INVITE YOU NOW  
TO LEARN MOVE'S STORY  
AND SEE OUR SHOW

WE PROTECT AND  
HONOR LIFE IN ALL  
ITS MANY FORMS  
DOGS AND VARIOUS  
BIRDS AND TREES AND  
RIVERS AND WEEDS  
AND THUNDERSTORMS  
LAW LIKE LIFE  
WE SAY IS NATURAL  
AND CANNOT BE  
TRADE BY MAN  
THE SYSTEM WORKS  
TO STRANGLE LIFE  
WE'LL OVERTHROW  
IT IF WE CAN







FROM ALL THAT  
DWELL BELOW  
THE SKIES  
LET CREATIONS  
PRAISE ARISE





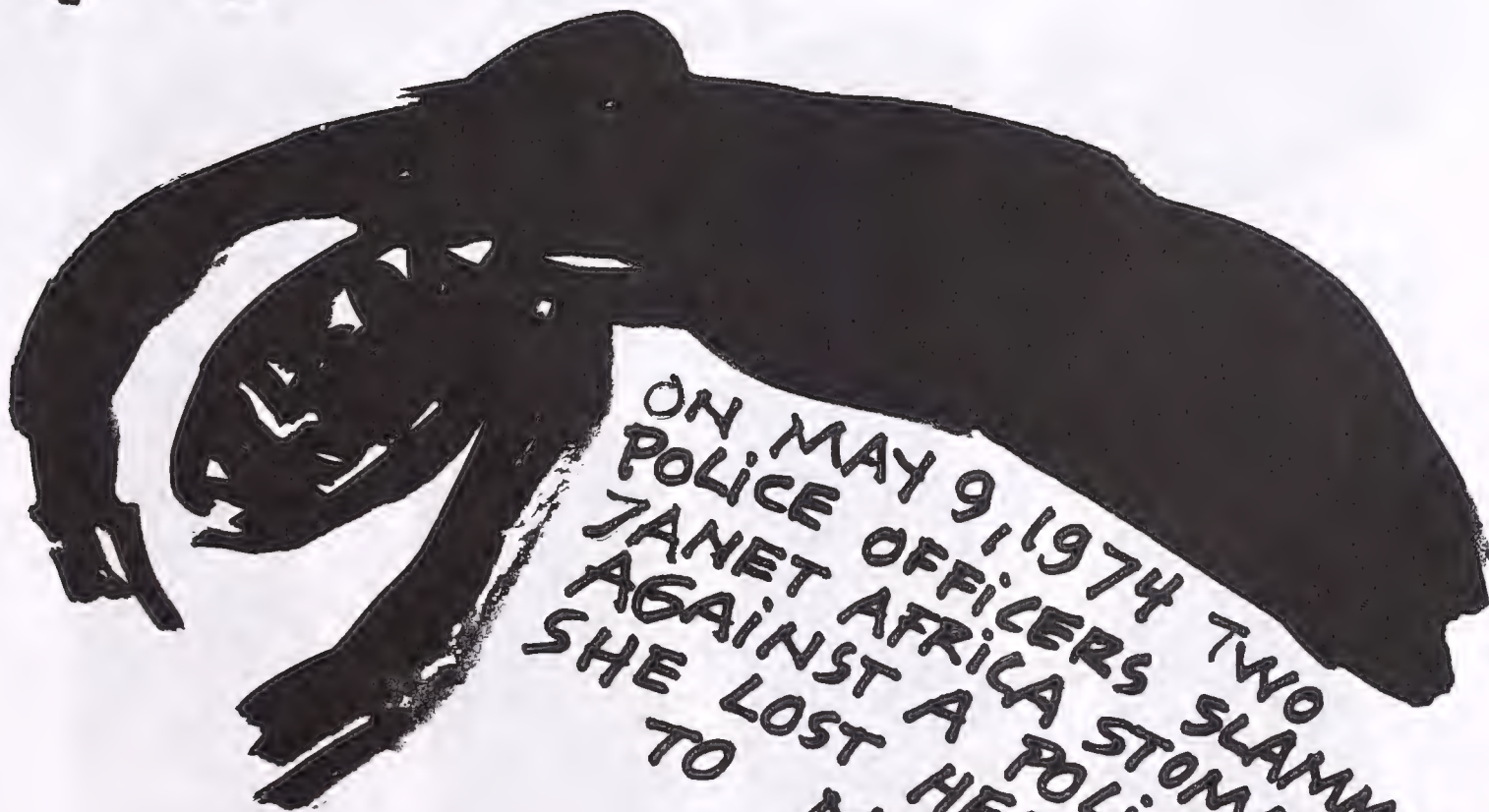
DOWN WITH  
THE SYSTEM!  
DON'T BELIEVE  
THE SYSTEM!

JUST BECAUSE  
IT'S LEGAL  
DOESN'T MAKE  
IT RIGHT!

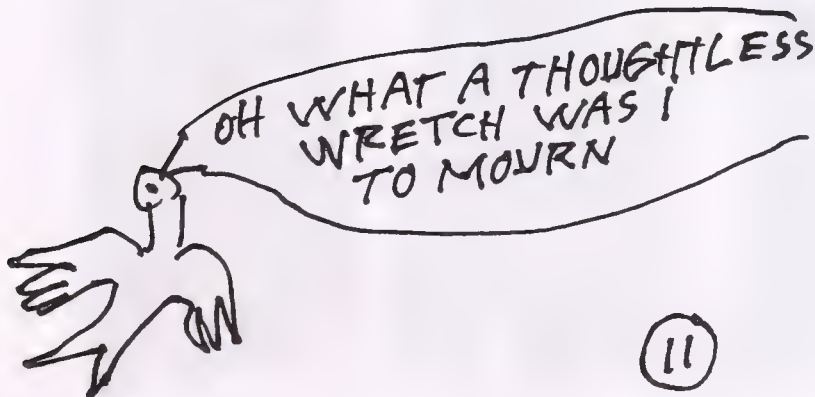




YOU THINK YOU CAN IGNORE  
THE LAW AND HAVE THINGS  
ALWAYS YOUR OWN WAY  
I'LL TEACH YOU WHO IS RUNNING  
THINGS  
AND IN THE END YOU WILL OBEY



ON MAY 9, 1974 TWO  
POLICE OFFICERS SLAMMED  
JANET AFRICA STOMACH-FIRST  
AGAINST A POLICE CAR.  
SHE LOST HER BABY DUE  
TO MISCARRIAGE



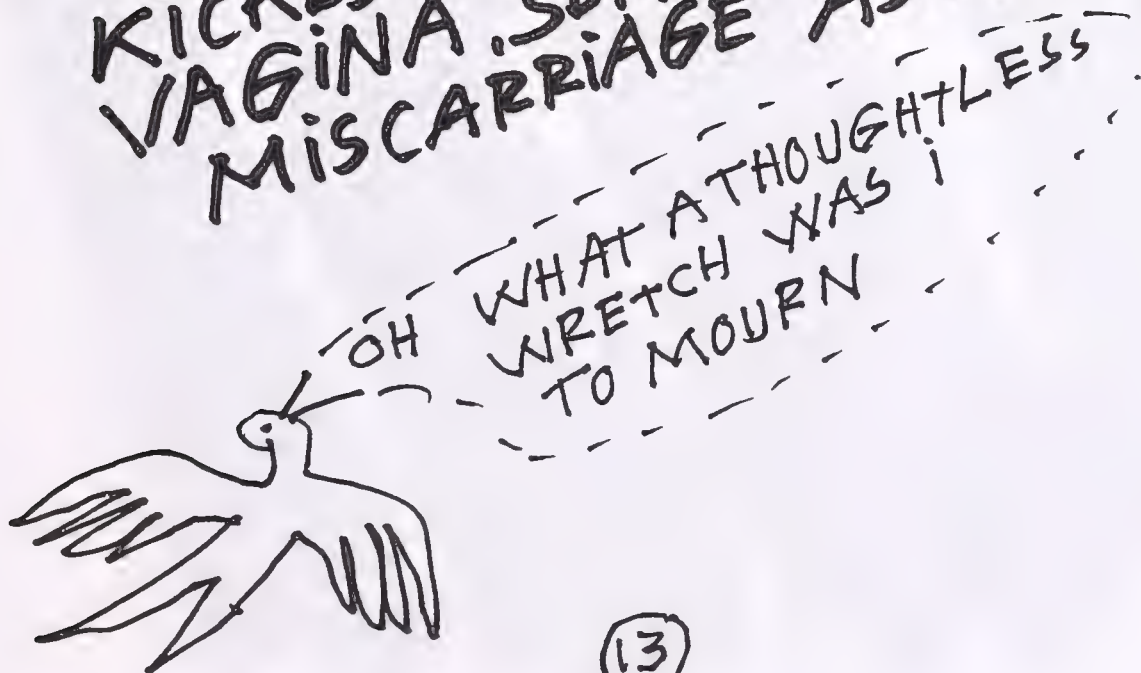
OH WHAT A THOUGHTLESS  
WRETCH WAS I  
TO MOURN

THE WORK OF  
MOVE IS  
REVOLUTION  
WE AGITATE  
WE DON'T COMPLY  
SYSTEM HOW THE  
WE EXPOSE US  
THE SYSTEMS  
LIES





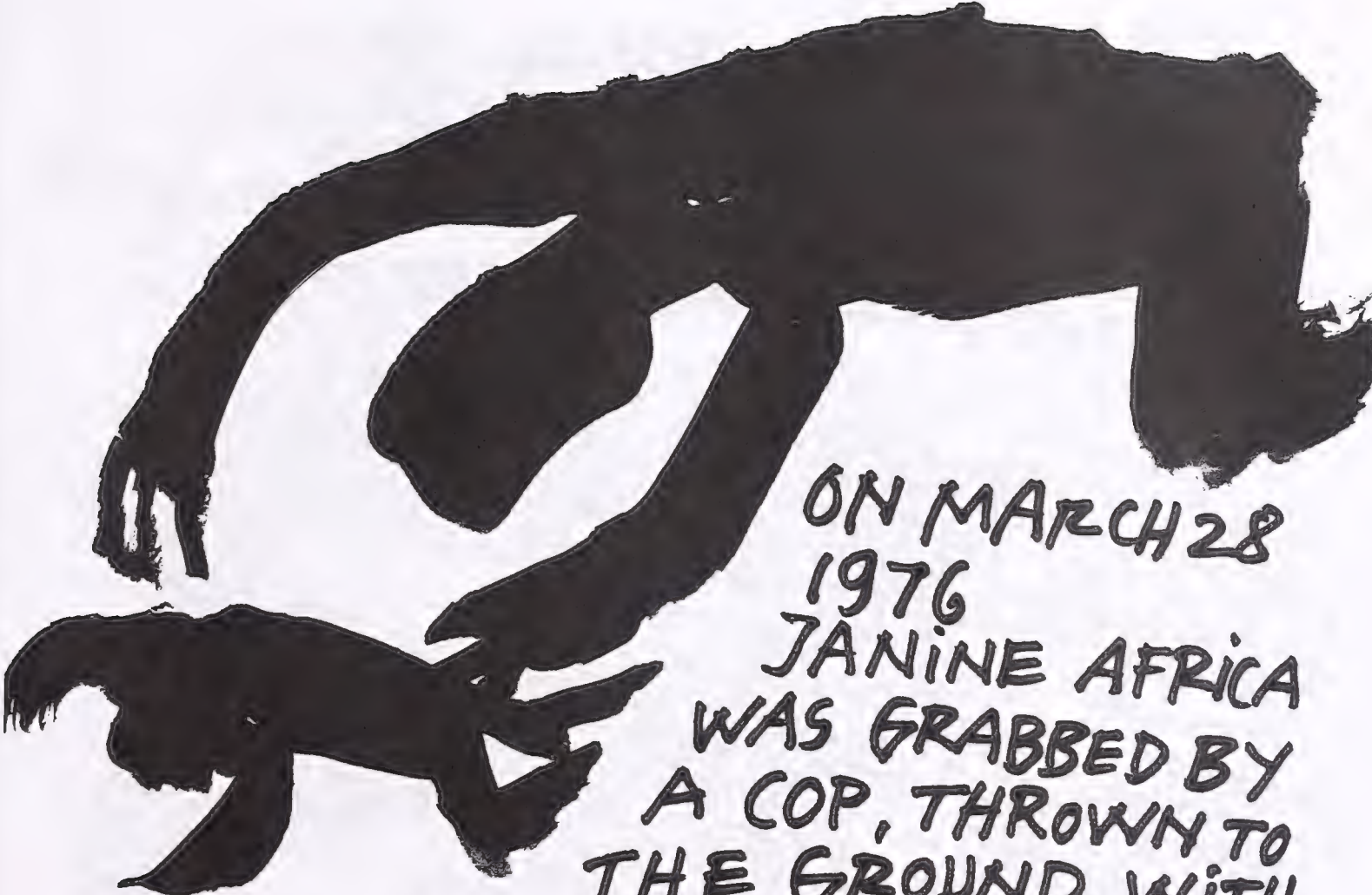
ON APRIL 29  
1975  
ALBERTA AFRICA  
WHO WAS PREGNANT  
WAS HELD SPREAD EAGLED  
BY 4 OFFICERS AND REPEATEDLY  
KICKED IN THE STOMACH AND  
VAGINA, SUFFERING A  
MISCARRIAGE AS A RESULT




OH WHAT A THOUGHTLESS  
WRETCH WAS I  
TO MOURN

THE WORK  
OF MOVIE  
IS REVOLUTION  
WE AGITATE  
WE DON'T  
COMPLY

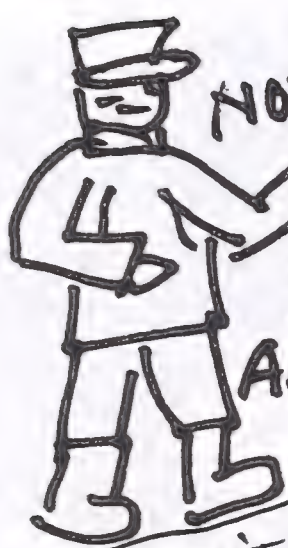




ON MARCH 28  
1976  
JANINE AFRICA  
WAS GRABBED BY  
A COP, THROWN TO  
THE GROUND WITH  
3-WEEK OLD LIFE AFRICA IN  
HER ARMS AND STOMPED  
TILL SHE WAS NEARLY UNCONSCIOUS.  
THE BABY'S SKULL WAS CRUSHED



OH WHAT A THOUGHTLESS  
WRETCH WAS I  
TO MOURN + MURMUR + REPINE  
TO SEE THE WICKED PLACED ON HIGH  
IN PRIDE + ROBES OF HONOR SHINE



NOW THE POLICE ARE IN  
CONTROL - ALL OUTCRIES  
HAVE BEEN HUSHED.  
NONE WILL DARE TO RISE AGAINST  
US  
ALL RESISTANCE SHALL BE CRUSHED

WE DON'T CONDONE EVERYTHING MOVE DOES, BUT  
WE DON'T THINK THE POLICE SHOULD MOVE IN + REPRESS  
THEM LIKE THEY HAVE. THE POLICE PRESENCE IN THE  
NEIGHBORHOOD IS MAKING THE ATMOSPHERE WORSE.  
PEOPLE COULD GET KILLED



NEIGHBOR 1

MOVE'S LIFESTYLE IS MAKING THE NEIGHBORHOOD  
UNINHABITABLE. THEY LEAVE GARBAGE ON THE  
GROUND WHICH ATTRACTS RATS. THEIR DOGS ARE  
NOT LEASHED OR INOCULATED. THEY DON'T SEND  
THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL + THEY HAVE GUNS



NEIGHBOR 2

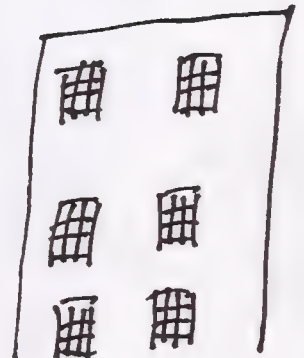
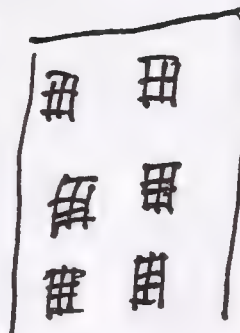
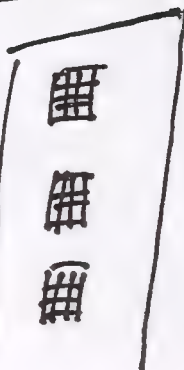
THERE'S BEEN AN ATTACK ON THE BLACK  
COMMUNITY. WE WENT TO A PHONE, BUT WHO  
ARE YOU GONNA CALL? AIN'T NOBODY TO CALL BECAUSE  
THE COPS ARE THE ONES DOING IT TO US. SO THAT  
LEAVES ONLY 1 ALTERNATIVE: TO DEFEND  
OURSELVES. WE CAN'T CALL ANYBODY BUT  
OURSELVES

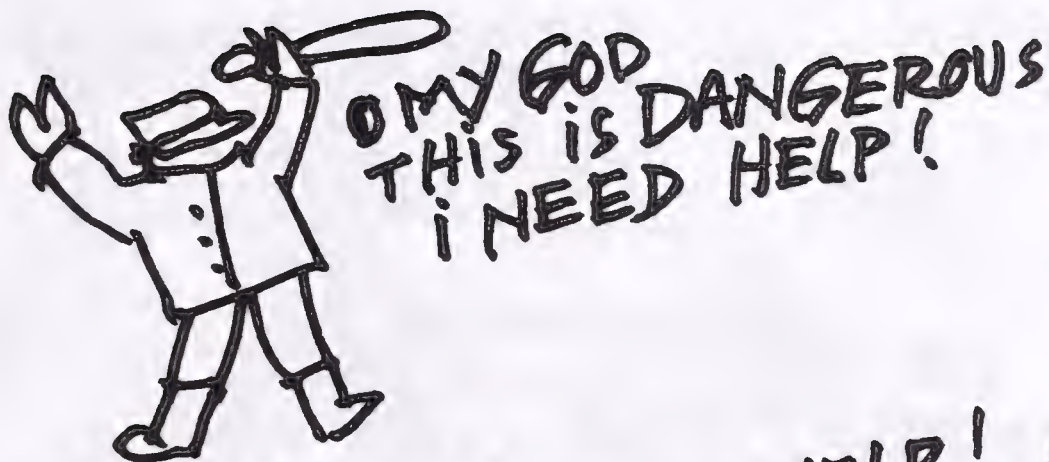


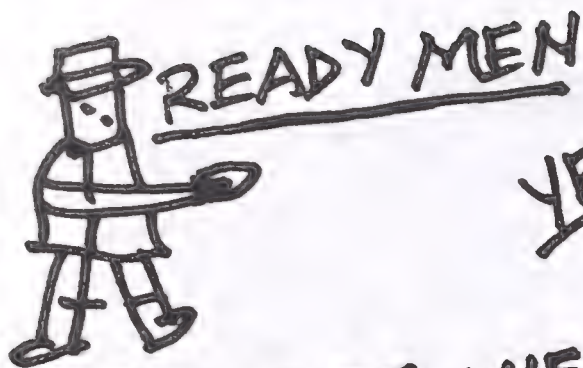
NEIGHBOR 3



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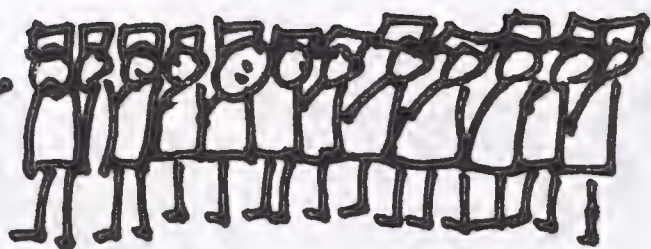






READY MEN

YES SIR



HERE WE HAVE A NEW  
COURT ORDER FOR A STRICT  
POLICE BLOCKADE. MOVE WILL  
HAVE NO FOOD NOR WATER  
THEY WILL WISH THEY HAD  
OBEYED

WE DO NOT  
ACCEPT  
THIS ORDER  
WE WILL HOLD  
OUT WHILE WE  
CAN LIKE LIFE  
WE SAY IS  
NATURAL  
AND CANNOT  
BE MADE  
BY MAN





READY MEN. YES. SIR  
AIM YES SIR FIRE  
YES SIR BANG BANG  
BANG BANG BANG  
BANG BANG BANG

TODAY WHEN  
THREATENED BY  
EXTREMISTS TO WIDE  
IN RESPONSE COMPLAINT  
POLICEMEN ACTED AS  
REQUIRED WITH AS  
PRECISION AND  
RESTRAINT

MEDIA

I ACCUSE YOU  
OF THE KILLING  
OF A PHILADELPHIA  
POLICEMAN

MEN!



ARREST  
THEM

YES SIR

DISTRICT ATTORNEY



WHEN YOU REPORTERS  
STIR THINGS UP  
TO FIND OUT WHO DID WHAT  
AND WHERE  
YOU JUST CAUSE US LOTS OF TROUBLE  
TO THE POLICE IT ISN'T FAIR

ONE QUESTION  
PLEASE

MAYOR



THESE MOVE PEOPLE JUST CAUSE  
PROBLEMS THEY ANTAGONIZE THE RICH  
THEY SIMPLY MUST BE GOTTEN RID OF  
AND I'LL BE GLAD TO PULL THE SWITCH

PLEASE SIR  
DO YOU HAVE  
A COMMENT?

THIRD PHILADELPHIA  
COURT OF APPEALS  
JUDGE ABEL GANCE  
PRESIDING

ALL RISE

JUDGE



YOU DO NOT STAND UP WHEN  
I ENTER FROM MY RULES  
YOU'RE NOT EXEMPT  
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS  
I PRONOUNCE YOU IN CONTEMPT  
NOW WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE IN THIS CASE?

SUN MOON AND STARS  
CONVEY THY PRAISE  
ROUND THE WHOLE  
EARTH AND NEVER  
STAND

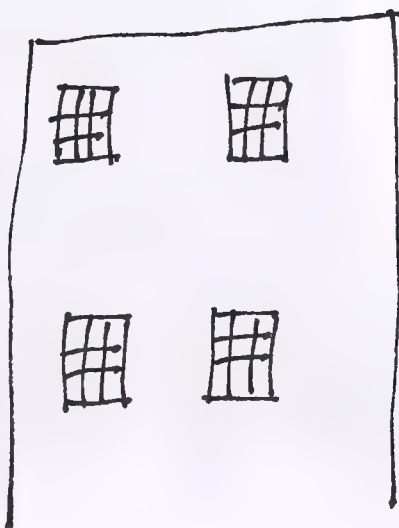
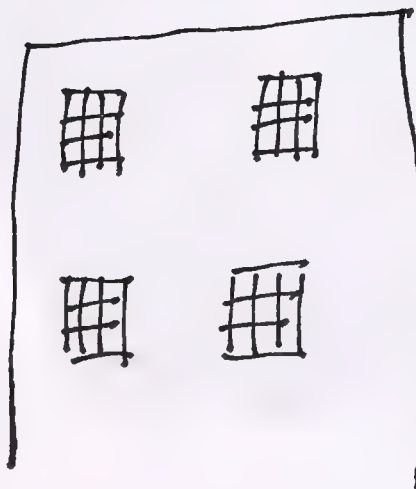


# ALTHOUGH DESTROYING THE EVIDENCE OF A CRIME IS ILLEGAL

POLICE BULLDOZERS DESTROYED THE  
MOVE HOUSE, ITS FOUNDATIONS AND THE  
TREES IN THE YARD. NO EFFORTS WERE  
MADE TO PRESERVE THE CRIMESCENE



ALTHOUGH ALL  
EVIDENCE HAS BEEN  
DESTROYED  
TOMORROW THE REAL TRUTH  
WILL APPEAR  
IF I FIND YOU GUILTY OF  
ALL CHARGES  
YOU'LL SERVE FROM 30  
TO 100 YEARS



IN NATURAL  
LAW MOVE TRUSTS  
ALL PRAISES TO  
THE ORDER OF  
LIFE. THE OF  
PRESENCE OF  
TRUTH IS FINAL  
LONG LIVE MOVE  
LONG LIVE  
REVOLUTION THE  
POWER THAT  
PULLS THINGS  
TOGETHER



IN 1983 MOVE  
THEIR CHILDREN  
ROW HOUSE ON  
ON DEC. 25

MOVE  
LOUD-  
SPEAKERS  
MOUNTED

MEMBERS AND  
LIVED IN A  
OSAGE AVE  
1983  
USED

ON THEIR

HOUSE TO PROTEST  
IMPRISONMENT  
MOVE MEMBERS

OSAGE AVE  
RESIDENTS  
SOUGHT

MOVE

NEIGH

MOVE

FORTIFY  
HOME

TO  
OUT  
H BORN  
BEGAN  
THEIR

THE  
OF  
SOME

GET  
OF  
OOD  
TO

THE

ON MAY 11  
OBTAINED  
FOR MOVE  
ON CHARGES  
CONDUCT  
THREATS.  
DAY

1985 POLICE  
ARREST WARRANTS  
MEMBERS  
OF DISORDERLY  
AND TERRORIST  
THE NEXT

POLICE EVACUA  
ON THE MORNING  
POLICE AND  
ARMED WITH A  
MILITARY WEA  
AN ASSAULT ON  
THERE WERE  
6 CHILDREN  
THE MOVE  
REFUSED TO  
POLICE FIRED  
ROUNDS OF  
AT THE HOUSE

ATED THE BLOCK  
OF MAY 13  
FIRE MEN  
VAST ARRAY OF  
PONY PREPARED  
THE MOVE HOUSE  
7 ADULTS AND  
INSIDE. WHEN  
MEMBERS  
SURRENDER  
OVER 10.000  
AMMUNITION  
THEN A

STATE POLICE HELICOPTER  
DROPPED A BOMB CONTAINING  
4 POUNDS OF C-4 EXPLOSIVE  
ON THE ROOF IGNITING  
A FIRE WHICH OFFICIALS  
ALLOWED TO BURN. MOVE

MEMBERS TRIED TO  
FLEE BUT WERE MET WITH  
POLICE GUN- FIRE. RAMONA AFRICA  
AND A CHILD BIRDY AFRICA ESCAPED  
THE FIRE AND WERE ARRESTED.  
6 ADULTS AND 5 CHILDREN WERE  
KILLED. THE BLAZE SPREAD  
BURNING DOWN 60 HOMES.  
NO POLICE - NO MAN OR PUBLIC  
OFFICIAL WAS EVER INDICTED  
FOR THE DEATHS AND  
DESTRUCTION

I'VE A LONG TIME HEARD  
THAT THERE WILL BE A  
JUDGEMENT THAT THERE  
WILL BE A JUDGEMENT  
IN THAT DAY



On March 13, 1998, Merle Africa died under suspicious circumstances in the Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania Prison. She was one of the nine M.O.V.E. members imprisoned since 1978 for the third degree murder of a Philadelphia policeman and serving a life sentence.

In the United States, third degree murder carries a ten-to-twenty year penalty, not the thirty-to-one-hundred years which the MOVE members received.

More information may be obtained by writing:

M.O.V.E.

P.O. Box 19709

Philadelphia PA 19143

and ordering their booklet "Twenty-five Years on the MOVE".

Bread & Puppet Theater created a parading passion play about the M.O.V.E. family in the summer of 1997 and presented it at Our Domestic Resurrection Circus in Glover, Vermont in August, 1997. About sixty performers and singer-musicians participated. In February, 1998 the show was named "City of Brotherly Love Passion Play" and reworked to fit inside spaces. Then in March, April and May it travelled to Goddard College, Vermont; Rutgers, New Jersey; Northeastern U., Boston, and Theater for the New City, NYC.

Sources for texts used in "City of Brotherly Love Passion Play" are: verses by Burt Porter of Glover, Vermont;

speech by John Africa, delivered in Philadelphia in 1977 and sent to the judges of the world;

"Twenty-five Years on the MOVE" booklet (see above);

"The Sacred Harp", Sacred Harp Publishing Co.,  
Bremen, Georgia, 1991 ed. (American shape-note hymns  
first compiled in 1844), using the songs:  
Bridgewater, text Isaac Watts, music L. Edson, 1782  
Greenwich, text Isaac Watts, music D. Read, 1785  
Stratfield, text Isaac Watts, music E. Goff, 1786  
The Great Day, text anonymous, music J.P. Reese, 1859.

Peter Schumann directed the show and made the pictures here.







MOVE Passion Play in Glover, Vermont. Photo by Ron Simon

Verses @ Burt Porter 1998  
Bread & Puppet Press  
Glover VT 05839  
1000 copies printed at Troll Press, St. Johnsbury VT  
April 1998



ES/PM